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22 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 22 June 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Gen. Cabell, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. McCone, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Knight

1. Advance Notification of Satellite Launchings

Mr. Merchant complained that the State Department had not been aware of the launching of two transit satellites until the morning of the operation, the 21st of June. He pointed out that the orbiting of satellites of this kind has obvious political implications, and therefore the Department should be consulted earlier. In this connection, he pointed out that the launching path was such that the vehicle passed over Cuba at a relatively low altitude and that it had the appearance of a flaming meteor. This could have led to protest from the Cubans, and in the event of a mishap over Cuban territory it could have been very serious.

Mr. Irwin said that he is not at present notified of events of this kind in advance. In the light of Mr. Merchant's views, however, he said he would take immediate steps to assure that he was so notified, so that he could be in a position to see that proper judgment is brought to bear.

2. Nuclear Test Suspension

Mr. Gray told the Board that the Committee of Principals would soon have to take a position on lifting or non-lifting of the present suspension of nuclear tests. He said that a number of various possibilities and contingent circumstances would have to be examined carefully.

Mr. McCone said that legislation might be required in order to allow the U.S. to release to nations associated with it certain information on test devices.

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25 JUN 1960

C. P. CABELL
General, USAF
Acting Director

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